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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Chile

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CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR.

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SUBJECT

Communist Connection with Naritime Strike

NO. OF PAGES

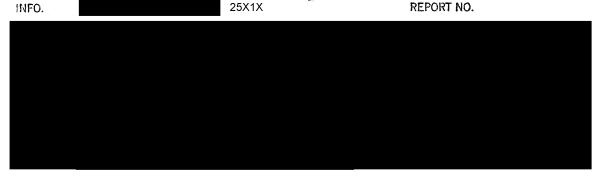
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- 1. Although the Chilean maritime strike of 20-23 October 1950 was not Communistinspired, it is reported that the Communists moved to take every possible advantage of the strike. Most of the maritime and port workers' syndicates are not controlled by the Communists, who control only those syndicates located in Lota, Coronel, and Tocopilla, with a partial control in Antofagasta. The Communist cells operating in these syndicates were instructed to try to encourage the striking workers to increase their demands in order to make the strike movement appear to have political as well as economic implications. Communist participation in the strike movement was reportedly entrusted to the Regional Committee of Valparaiso.
- 2. The Valparaiso Regional Committee attempted to convince the strikers that the economic and other benefits which they were demanding were closely linked with the pro-peace struggle. The workers were also told that as long as the government is an "agent of imperialism" Chilean labor would be treated as it suited the interests of the capitalists and imperialist powers.

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this strike may be the beginning of a labor movement of larger proportions based on, as was the maritime strike, the government's failure to fulfill its obligations to the workers. Galo Conzalez Diaz, Secretary General of the Communist Party, is reported to be secretly pleased by President Gonzalez Videla's manner of frequently settling labor disputes by making promises to the workers which are rarely carried out by the government. Galo Gonzalez reportedly advised the Party's Political Commission that this situation "aids and protects us".

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Conment. The maritime and port workers syndicates operate in accordance with instructions from the Popular Socialist Party. The two principal syndicate leaders, Luis Lopez Villanueva and Luis Franco, are members of that party.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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